

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-12, 21, and 22.

Claims 1-12, 21, and 22 are now present in this application. Claims 13-20, and 23 are canceled without prejudice to presenting them in a continuing patent application.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 13-20 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph. Because claims 13-20 and 23 are canceled without prejudice, this rejection is moot.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 13-16, 19, 20, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,359,942 to Ward. Because claims 13-16, 19, 20 and 23 are canceled without prejudice, this rejection is moot.

Claims 13, 14, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,776,415 to Brice. Because claims 13-16, 19, 20, and 23 are canceled without prejudice, this rejection is moot.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brice in view of Ward. Because claims 13-16, 19, 20, and 23 are canceled without prejudice, this rejection is moot.

IV. Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Examiner Lillis agreed in a telephone interview on January 14, 2005 that this Amendment would place the Application in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and § 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of \$450.00 is attached hereto, as the first month was paid with the filing of an Amendment on November 15, 2004.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert J. Webster, Registration No. 46,472, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

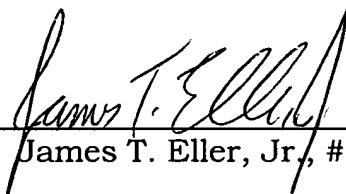
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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